

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 3/19/2012 6:38:51 PM
To: "conwaysirwin@gmail.com" <conwaysirwin@gmail.com>
CC: Terri-A White
Subject: Re: Media Questions Re: Dimock, PA

Conway -- Sorry for the delay in getting back to you.

1) Thus far the EPA's preliminary results appear to confirm previous well testing results in the area done by Cabot and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Is it EPA's expectations that further results will remain consistent with previous test results?

These are the sampling results from first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. EPA is not drawing any conclusions at this time.

2) Did the EPA have any concerns about the quality of previous test results, or was the decision to carry out testing in Dimock simply a response to constituent requests?

EPA's priority has always been to ensure safe drinking water is available to the residents of Dimock. Because the data available to us when we started our review was incomplete and of uncertain quality, we felt it was important for EPA to collect our own samples so we could consider, based on sound science, any appropriate further actions.

3) Why did the EPA elect to release these preliminary findings prior to the completion of testing? Were these 11 homes the areas of greatest concern?

EPA is planning to release sampling results to the home owners on a weekly basis in the order in which the homes were sampled. Our sampling effort began the week of January 23rd and continued for three and half weeks through February 15th. At this time we are providing results on the 11 wells sampled during the week of January 23rd. These were the first 11 wells sampled. The agency's priority was to first sample homes that are now receiving water from EPA, and those homes that were previously provided water under an order from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

4) What is the timeframe for full data sets to be completed for all 60 homes?

See answer above.

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
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(215) 814-5567

-----Conway Irwin <conwaysirwin@gmail.com> wrote: -----

To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Conway Irwin <conwaysirwin@gmail.com>
Date: 03/19/2012 04:58PM
Cc: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Media Questions Re: Dimock, PA

Roy,

I realize I failed to include my deadline in this e-mail. It's 7pm EST.

Thanks,

Conway

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 3:09 PM, Conway Irwin <conwaysirwin@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Roy,

No problem at all -- thanks for getting back to me. I have just a few questions:

1) Thus far the EPA's preliminary results appear to confirm previous well testing results in the area done by Cabot and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Is it EPA's expectations that further results will remain consistent with previous test results?

2) Did the EPA have any concerns about the quality of previous test results, or was the decision to carry out testing in Dimock simply a response to constituent requests?

3) Why did the EPA elect to release these preliminary findings prior to the completion of testing? Were these 11 homes the areas of greatest concern?

4) What is the timeframe for full data sets to be completed for all 60 homes?

Thanks and best regards,

Conway

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 2:59 PM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

Conway -- Sorry, I thought I emailed this statement to you earlier. We are responding to all questions regarding Dimock via email. Please email your questions to me and Terri White and we will try to get back to you as soon as possible. - Roy

On Jan. 19, as a result of requests from residents and a review of the data we had in hand, EPA announced it would perform water sampling at approximately 60 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock, Pa. to further assess whether any residents are being exposed to hazardous substances that cause health concerns.

The first round of sampling results is now available for the first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. Sampling results from these 11 homes did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern. Samples from six of the 11 homes did show concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria, but concentrations were all within the safe range for drinking water. The sampling results also identified the presence of arsenic at two homes.

Out of the 11 homes tested, there are currently three homes receiving an alternate water supply provided by EPA. EPA will continue to provide water to these homes while we perform additional sampling to ensure that the drinking water quality at these homes remains consistent and acceptable for use over time. EPA is also taking a second round of samples from the two homes where arsenic was detected, and although the levels meet drinking water standards, we will resample to better characterize the water quality of these wells. After receiving results from the second round of sampling, EPA will re-evaluate the need to continue providing an alternate water source.

EPA has offered to meet with all the residents to go over their data and answer any health-related concerns. As further quality assured data becomes available for the remaining homes, we will share with the homeowners in an expedited manner. Our actions will continue to be based on the science and the law as we work to help get a clear picture of water quality for these homes in Dimock.

Roy Seneca

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-----Conway Irwin <conwaysirwin@gmail.com> wrote: -----

To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

From: Conway Irwin <conwaysirwin@gmail.com>

Date: 03/19/2012 10:39AM

Subject: Re: Media Questions Re: Dimock, PA

Hi Roy,

I'm a reporter for Interfax Global Natural Gas Daily, doing a story on the EPA's recent findings from water well testing in Dimock, PA.

Is there any chance you might have some time to chat with me today? I'm hoping to get a better sense of how the results fit into the bigger picture about the potential environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing.

My deadline is 7pm EST, and I'd be happy to call you at your convenience.

Thanks and best regards,

Conway Irwin

(646) 457-1320

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 10:35 AM, Cathy Milbourn <Milbourn.Cathy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

Conway: Roy Seneca in EPA region 3 can help.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Conway Irwin [conwaysirwin@gmail.com]

Sent: 03/19/2012 10:01 AM AST

To: Cathy Milbourn

Subject: Media Questions Re: Dimock, PA

Hi Cathy,

I'm a reporter for Interfax Global Natural Gas Daily, and I am writing a story that seeks to put recent EPA findings from well water testing in Dimock, PA into context.

I understand that the EPA has not found contaminants above regulation levels in the wells that were tested, but that additional testing will be required for some wells. What I'd like to better understand is whether contaminant levels suggest that there is no leakage from natural gas wells in the area, or whether any potential leakage is simply not at levels considered harmful. I'd also like to ask about further testing in the area, and the broader implications of the findings.

My deadline is 7pm EST today.

Thank you and best regards,

Conway Irwin

(646) 457-1320